

REMARKS

By this amendment, Applicants have amended Claim 19 in accordance with the discussion with the Examiner during an Interview with Applicants' counsel. In particular, Claim 19 is now directed to an antibody which is capable of binding to the amino acid sequence consisting of amino acids 33-592 of SEQ ID NO: 13. As was discussed in the Interview, and as set forth below, because the cited prior art has no disclosure nor teaching which would lead one to the specific region recognized by the antibodies of the present invention, much less the generation of antibodies against that region, the claims in their present form are patentable over the cited prior art.

As an initial matter, the Interview granted to the Applicants' representative, which is discussed herein in more detail, is gratefully acknowledged with appreciation.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 9, 19-26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Choi et al. (U.S. 6,448,043) and Choi et al. (WO 9850554), respectively. The Examiner further rejected claims 9, 19-26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Doucette-Stamm et al. (U.S. 6,617,156). These rejections, insofar as applied to the claims as amended, are respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn for the reasons as stated below and in the recent Interview with the Examiner.

As was discussed in the Interview, the cited references disclose large sequences obtained using various algorithms and predictive models, and accordingly the references at most disclose predicted proteins and polypeptides from the entire genome. However, the references make no disclosure whatsoever with regard to particular regions within a protein, much less what the properties of any such regions

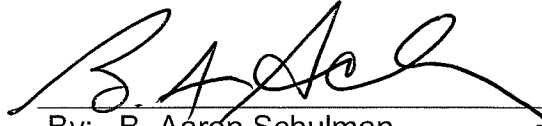
might be. Finally, since the resulting sequences of these references were merely theoretical and not expressed, the authors could not say anything about what type of proteins or polypeptides may have been coded for by the sequences. Accordingly, there is no disclosure or suggestion that the actual protein may have been an extracellular matrix protein, and the lack of such information would make it impossible for one to have predicted or deduced any particular regions from the sequenced proteins and polypeptides.

As a result, the disclosures of the polypeptide sequences in the cited references do not disclose or make obvious the present claims which are directed to antibodies capable of binding to a sequence consisting of amino acids 33-692 of SEQ ID NO: 13. This region, also known as the A domain, is nowhere disclosed or suggested in the cited prior art references, much less the generation of antibodies that are capable of recognizing this specific region. In short, the prior references have no disclosure or suggestion of the present claims, and one would not have been able to arrive at the present invention using the prior disclosures which did not disclose or suggest the specific A domain within the polypeptides sequenced.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not anticipated nor made obvious by the cited references, and that the claims of the present application relating to antibodies capable of binding an amino acid sequence consisting of amino acids 33-592 of SEQ ID NO: 13 are clearly patentable over those references. Applicants thus submit that the Examiner's rejection on the basis of the cited references is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

In light of the amendments and arguments provided herewith, Applicants submit that the present application overcomes all prior rejections and objections, and has been placed in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Aaron Schulman', written over a horizontal line.

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